



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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## **MEXICAN NATIONALS OPERATING A BROTHEL SENTENCED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that 32-year-old Maricela Martinez-Uresti, a.k.a. Maricela Uresti-Martinez was sentenced to 108 months in federal prison after being convicted of human trafficking charges.

On October 10, 2003, Uresti-Martinez pled guilty to charges of Sex Trafficking of Children, Transportation of Minors for Sexual Activity, Conspiracy to Smuggle, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens and Importation of Aliens for Immoral Purposes. Her co-defendant, 19 year-old Violeta Juanita De Hoyos-Hernandez pled guilty to Conspiracy to Smuggle, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens for Profit. De Hoyos-Hernandez, who has been in custody since her arrest, was sentenced today to time served and faces deportation to Mexico.

In November 2002 and continuing through May 2003, the defendants participated in a conspiracy to recruit and smuggle minor female aliens from Mexico into the United States for financial gain.

Martinez-Uresti executed employment contracts in Mexico with minor females and their parents where she falsely represented that the minor females would be obligated to work for one year in Martinez-Uresti's restaurant to repay the \$1500 smuggling fee. Once the girls reached Austin, they were held against their will and forced to engage in prostitution to repay the smuggling fee. The minor aliens told investigators that the defendants threatened to kill them if they refused to follow their instructions.

The defendants were arrested by the Austin Police Department on May 14, 2003. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement joined the investigation after the arrest. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Carruth prosecuted this case for the government.

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